Middlebrook News.

THE FINE RESIDENCE OF MR. JOHN S. MCCORKLE BURNED—A NEGRO CHILD BURNED TO DEATH IN THE BUILDING—MONEY LOST.

A great excitement prevailed here on last Thursday night occasioned by the burning of the elegant brick residence of John S. McCorkle situated near the center of the village. Mr. McC. was away from home, but arrived on the scene before the fire was over. The saddest feature of the whole matter was the burning up of a little colored child that was left in the basement by its simple mother who built a large fire and went out. It is thought that the fire popped out and ignited the clothing of the child as well as the box in which it lay. The house was a very large one and contained so much inflammable material that the flames made rapid progress. The citizens did nobly under the circumstances, and prevented any further damage than the burning of the one house. The little colored child was burned up entirely. A lot of the property was saved, but was terribly used up by the rough handling it received. A lot of money somewhere about the sum of $800.00, also a lot of very fine jewelry were burned up. A fine piano and many very precious heir-looms were destroyed. There is no telling the amount of fine property lost by this sad affair. It was sad, indeed, to hear and see the distress of the colored woman over her child. It was through her "leather headed ness" that the fired occurred and the life of her child was thereby sacrificed. Every one who employs negroes ought to watch them clo ely for fear of fire. We suppose $5,000 00 will not more than cover the loss to Mr. McC. We learn the building was insured for $3,000 00, and the furniture for $2,000,00. All the clothing of the family was destroyed, leaving them only what they had on, and they had very valuable clothing and jewelry. I learn to-day, (Friday) that Mrs. McCorkle's $350.00 diamond ring was lost. The property she prized most highly was the life size oil portraits of her father and mother and first husband. The citizens did noble work for which Mr McC. heartily thanks them. The wind was blowing from north to south all the time which helped very much to save the Eastern End of town. It is currently reported here this morning that some unprincipled fellow stole the most of the money. It is only rumor and we hope there are no such people living among us who would rob a man while the flames were speedily destroying his all. A man must be utterly void of principle to perpetrate such a dastardly act. As far as your correspondent can learn, every man present tried to save what he could for the family and everything was done well and honestly, except the money, and if any one did get it, he should return it at once. We learn that everything has been properly taken care of. Samuel Taylor, a mulatto boy, of this town, about 18 years old, deserves special mention and a suit of clothes for the valiant work he did. He was exposed to the most intense heat and saved the large concrete store opposite the burning house with the aid of others who were also exposed. Every man, with a few exceptions, and these stood around in the way with their hands in their pockets, did his duty manfully. Lo fers and men who are afraid to get wet are always in the way of those who work. One of this kind came to a man who was hard at work telling him to send to the country and let people know about the fire. Go to work, said he, and there are enough here to prevent a spread of the flames. Q.

Georgia Gold Fields.